

U.S. Application No. 10/090,368 Examiner Matthew Genack Art Unit 2645
Response to April 20, 2005 Office Action

AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121, please replace line 26, page 8 thru line 12, page 9 with the replacement paragraphs below showing markings of the changes relative to the previous versions of these paragraphs.

Referring to Fig. 5, in another embodiment of the present invention, the BU 54 (Figs. 3 and 4) powers up (Block 70) and sends a signal to the plurality of ECDs 66 (Figs. 3 and 4) via the one or more telephone lines 22 (Fig. 3) requesting that all connected ECDs 66 announce themselves (Block 72). At this point, all connected ECDs 66 do announce themselves (Block 74). A new ECD 66 placed in service after this process has occurred preferably automatically announces itself for a predetermined period of time, alerting the BU 54 to its presence. The BU 54 then stores the identities of the plurality of ECDs 66 in a permanent storage device 65 (Fig. 4) disposed within the BU 54 (Block 76). At this point, each of the plurality of ECDs 66 is assigned a common name by the BU 54 (Block 78), such as "Master Bedroom," "Kitchen," "Child's Bedroom," "Office #1," "Office #2," "Office #3," or the like. Algorithms or rules are then entered into the BU 54 by the user via a dual-tone multi-frequency ("DTMF") or voice interface 67 (Fig. 4) disposed within the BU 54, through a handset connected to an ECD 66, or through an associated PC interface (Block 80). Finally, these rules are accessed and executed by the BU 54 and/or the plurality of ECDs 66. A simple rule may relate to time of day and a predetermined ECD 66. For example, the rule may describe, "between 11 pm and 6 am do not ring any extension except 'Master Bedroom.'" The rule may also describe, "turn off 'Child's Bedroom' between 9pm and 3pm." (Block 82)